

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2950, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LEADVILLE MINE DRAINAGE TUNNEL REMEDIATION ACT OF 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3123) to direct the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, to remedy problems caused by a collapsed drainage tunnel in Leadville, Colorado, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3123

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. LEADVILLE MINE DRAINAGE TUNNEL REMEDIATION.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel Remediation Act of 2009”.

(b) **TUNNEL REMEDIATION.**—The Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-575) is amended as follows:

(1) By striking section 705.

(2) In section 708(a)—

(A) by striking “(a)” and inserting “(a)(1)”;

(B) by striking “The Secretary shall have” and inserting “Except as provided by paragraph (2), the Secretary shall have”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) The Secretary shall participate in the implementation of the operable unit 6 remedy for the California Gulch Superfund Site, including, but not limited to, the following actions:

“(A) Treating water behind any blockage or bulkhead in the Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel, including surface water diverted into the Tunnel workings as part of the remedy.

“(B) Managing and maintaining the mine pool behind such blockage or bulkhead at a level that precludes surface runoff and releases and minimizes the potential for tunnel failure due to excessive water pressure in the tunnel.”.

(3) In section 708(f), by striking “and 708” and inserting “, 708, and 709”.

(4) By adding at the end of title VII the following:

“SEC. 709. TUNNEL MAINTENANCE.

“The Secretary shall take such steps to repair or maintain the structural integrity of the Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel (LMDT) as may be necessary in order to prevent tunnel failure and to preclude uncontrolled release of water from any portion of the tunnel.”.

(5) In the table of sections contained in section 2—

(A) by striking the item relating to section 705; and

(B) by inserting after the item relating to section 708 the following new item:

“Sec. 709. Tunnel maintenance.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from

Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair now recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Guam?

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3123, introduced by our colleague, Representative DOUG LAMBORN, would direct the Bureau of Reclamation to remedy problems caused by collapses in the Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel. Due to structural deterioration, contaminated water has backed up in the tunnel, posing a public health threat and an environmental threat.

I ask my colleagues to support the bill's passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of this legislation offered by our Colorado colleague, DOUG LAMBORN. This legislation has been supported on a bipartisan basis and deserves passage today because it will help prevent a potential human safety disaster in Leadville, Colorado.

The Leadville Mine Tunnel was supposed to be used for a nearby Federal water project; however, it has ended up becoming a public danger because of its potential to burst with chemical-laden water on nearby residents. Since the Federal Government owns this tunnel, it is therefore a Federal responsibility.

I urge my colleagues to support this necessary legislation which fell victim to party politics earlier this year.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN).

Mr. LAMBORN. I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel was originally constructed by the Federal Bureau of Mines in the 1940s and 1950s to facilitate the extraction of lead and zinc ore for the World War II and Korean war efforts. The Bureau of Reclamation acquired the tunnel in 1959 hoping to use it as a source of water for the Frypan-Arkansas project.

With the passage and subsequent signing into law of H.R. 429 during the 102d Congress in 1992, the Bureau of Reclamation constructed and continues to operate a water treatment plant at the mouth of the tunnel. This treatment plant removes metal contaminants from the water.

Groundwater levels at the tunnel have fluctuated in recent years.

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In addition, a collapse in the tunnel has increased the tunnel's mine pool

significantly, leading to new seeps and springs in the area. Estimates suggest that at one time up to 1 billion gallons of water may have accumulated.

Emergency measures are currently being undertaken by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Bureau of Reclamation to relieve water pressure in the vicinity. However, legislation attempting to address this matter and authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to rehabilitate this tunnel dates back to at least 1976.

In response to the request for action from the local community, I have again worked together with Senator MARK UDALL of Colorado in a bipartisan manner and reintroduced H.R. 3123. The bill would direct the Bureau of Reclamation to relieve water pressure behind blockages in the tunnel, permanently manage the mine pool behind any blockage to prevent any releases of contaminated water, and manage the tunnel in such a way to prevent failure of the structure.

I remind Members that only minor technical changes have been made since this bill was originally passed by the House of Representatives in the previous Congress. I respectfully request each Member to support this legislation. Human safety and environmental integrity need to be appropriately and responsibly addressed.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional requests for time and would inquire of the minority whether they have any additional speakers.

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, the minority has no additional speakers, and with that I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I again urge Members to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3123, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THUNDER BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY AND UNDERWATER PRESERVE BOUNDARY MODIFICATION ACT

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 905) to expand the boundaries of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 905

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,